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GEORGE DOLE SMITH.

Born 4 Sept. 1833, in Biddeford, Maine.

Died 6 July 1880, in Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Smith was by trade a watchmaker and jeweller. After carrying on his business in Maine, Virginia, Illinois, and Missouri, he entered the establishment of Palmer, Bachelder and Co., in Boston, Mass., where he acted as salesman in the watch department for about nineteen years, and was for the last thirteen years a member of the firm. By his kind manners, accommodating spirit and thorough knowledge of his business he won many friends and increased in no small degree the patronage of the establishment. But devoted as he was to the interests of the firm, his heart was elsewhere.

He was a member of the Cambridge Entomological Club, and of the Boston Society of Natural History, though not a frequent attendant upon the meetings of either society. He was an enthusiastic student of coleoptera and for more than twenty years gave all his leisure time to the collection, arrangement and study of these insects. Indeed, so assiduous was his devotion to his collection, that few persons had an opportunity of making his acquaintance out of business hours, unless they visited him in his studio. In his earlier years he established the foundation of his collection by his own exertions, but later, being unable to travel extensively, and finding rather barren fields in his vicinity, he resorted largely to purchase and exchange.

His aim was to obtain both sexes of every species existing in North America, and, having ample means, he spared hardly any expense in pursuance of this purpose. Moreover, the liberality with which he granted the use of his cabinet to other students secured for him their good will and cooperation, and through them he received immense additions to his cabinet. So thoroughly had the field been explored for him that for a long time before his death he was rarely able to add any new species except the very minute ones, and possessed nearly all that were known as occurring in North America. The extent and wonderfully perfect state of preservation of his collection attracted the attention of the leading students of his specialty in the country, and from them he received many visits. It was his practice to relax and remount every specimen which he placed in his cabinet, and it is rare to find a limb or a joint missing, while all these parts are set in the attitudes of the living individuals. Very few specimens had ever been in alcohol, hence they possessed the brilliancy of life. The whole North American collection is most neatly labelled and arranged in more than two hundred boxes made in form of large octavo books, and covered with black cloth. These boxes are ranged upon shelves in cabinets with glass doors.

In addition to his North American collection Mr. Smith had a quite extensive collection of South American coleoptera, mostly donations from various friends. He had spent much labor upon the arrangement of these in about forty wooden storing boxes, and except by comparison this collection in itself would be considered a monument of industry and devotion.

Mr. Smith was not simply a collector of insects. He possessed a very good entomological library, and was well read in the science. He owned also a fine and well-equipped binocular microscope, and was contemplating the performance of extensive work with this instrument when death put a stop to all his plans. — [Abstract of a memoir read by J. Orne, jr., before the Boston Society of Natural History.]

B: P. M.